GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3946
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
WHEAT IMPORT BY STATES
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given permission to States to import wheat directly to meet the demand of Public Distribution System (PDS) in these States;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of States that have been granted such permission;

(c) whether such imports are proposed to be subsidised by the Union Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the extent to which this is likely to help the States in improving availability of wheat in these States; and

(f) the steps being taken to help the States that have not been given such a permission?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f): Yes, Sir. Given the low procurement of wheat for the Central Pool during 2007 and high demands for white/domestic wheat received, the State Governments of 4 States, namely Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal were directed to import wheat from international market as per their choice from March to May, 2008, to meet about half of their requirement of wheat under the TPDS and welfare schemes during this period. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala were also suggested to consider import of wheat from international market. A subsidy equal to the level of subsidy to be given by the Government of India to FCI for import of wheat for the aforesaid months would be re-imbursed to the State Governments for the wheat to be imported by them.